

Message Text

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STADIS/////////////////////////////////
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT: ARA WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS.

1. SUMMARY: THIS IS THE FIRST EDITION OF THE REVIVED WEEK-
LY HIGHLIGHTS CABLE WHICH YOU WILL BE RECEIVING MID-WEEK.
I WAS SWORN IN AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY ON APRIL 1. CHARLIE
3RAY AND I BRIEFED THE LONG AND YATRON HOUSE SU0COMMITTEES,
RESPECTIVELY, ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE. AMBASSADORS BUNKER
AND LINOWITZ TESTIFIED BEFORE A SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS. WE MADE PROGRESS IN OUR INITIAL
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE CUBANS ON FISHERIES AND MARITIME
BOUNDARIES. PRESIDENT CARTER WILL ADDRESS THE OAS ON PAN
AMERICAN DAY. WE ARE MOVING AHEAD TO IMPLEMENT THE US-
MEXICAN HIGH LEVEL WORKING GROUP MECHANISM ON ISSUES OF
MUTUAL CONCERN. THE SENATE FOLLOWED THE HOUSE IN
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PASSING ITS OWN SEVERE CUT IN OUR REQUEST FOR A FY77
SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE IDB. END SUMMARY.

2. ARA SWEARING-IN CEREMONY: I TOOK MY OATH OF OFFICE ON
APRIL 1 BEFORE ACTING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER. I WAS
PARTICULARLY GRATIFIED BY THE LARGE, VARIED AND BROADLY

REPRESENTATIVE TURNOUT OF GUESTS. YOU WILL HAVE RECEIVED THE TEXT OF MY REMARKS IN WHICH I EMPHASIZED OUR INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS, DIVERSITY IN THE REGION, NON-INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE NEED FOR BETTER ACCOMMODATION OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. I MIGHT ALSO ADD THAT, WITH GREAT CONFIDENCE IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY, I LOOK TO YOUR SUPPORT, COLLABORATION AND UNDERSTANDING. YOU MAY COUNT ON MINE. I HAVE REVIVED THE WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS AND WILL CONTINUE THE TRADITION OF THE MONTHLY LETTER WITH ENCLOSURES.

3. HUMAN RIGHTS

A. WE CONTINUE TO EXPEND THE BULK OF OUR ENERGIES ON THE MULTIFACETED AND COMPLEX ASPECTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP A COHERENT SET OF SPECIFIC POLICIES AND APPROACHES TO ADVANCE ADMINISTRATION OBJECTIVES IN BOTH THE GENERAL AND INDIVIDUAL BILATERAL CONTEXTS. IN THE MEANTIME, CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST AND CONCERN CONTINUES TO BE INTENSE.

B. I APPEARED BEFORE THE HIRC SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS ON APRIL 5. MY PRESENTATION ON THE POLITICAL/MILITARY RATIONALE FOR OUR SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ENDED A SERIES OF HEARINGS THE SUBCOMMITTEE CALLED TO EDUCATE ITSELF ON CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS IN THE HEMISPHERE. AS WITH PREVIOUS WITNESSES, INCLUDING BILL LUERS, IT WAS A NON-CONFRONTATIONAL SESSION. COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE APPARENTLY GENUINELY INTERESTED IN THE REGION'S CONFIDENTIAL

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PROBLEMS, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON HOW THE HUMAN RIGHTS SCENE IN LATIN AMERICA CAN BE IMPROVED. I ALSO BRIEFED SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE CUBANS LAST WEEK.

C. CHARLIE BRAY APPEARED BEFORE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS IN A PUBLIC HEARING A-SO HELD APRIL 5. CHAIRMAN LONG AND CONGRESSMAN KOCH (ONLY TWO MEMBERS PRESENT) LED AN ASSAULT ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR NICARAGUA, THE CENTRAL SUBJECT OF THE HEARING. THE FULL COMMITTEE STILL HAS NOT CONSIDERED THE FY78 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE, BUT IT APPEARS THAT A CASE IS BEING BUILT TO ELIMINATE NICARAGUA FROM THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. THERE IS A GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMED FOR NICARAGUA ALSO MAY SUFFER AS A RESULT OF STRONG FEELINGS AGAINST SOMOZA.

D. MEANWHILE, CHAIRMAN LONG MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WILL TRY TO USE THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE TO CUT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

FOR OTHER COUNTRIES, IN THE REGION AND ELSEWHERE. WHICH

ONES IS NOT YET CLEAR.

4. PANAMA CANAL: AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND LINOWITZ TESTIFIED ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH PANAMA IN A CLOSED SESSION OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON APRIL 1. THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AROSE IN QUESTIONS. SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SARBANES VIEWS THIS SESSION AS THE STARTING POINT FOR ESTABLISHING THE LEGISLATIVE RECORD ON A NEW CANAL TREATY.

5. PROGRESS IN U.S.-CUBAN TALKS: I HEADED OUR DELEGATION IN THE OPENING ROUND IN NEW YORK MARCH 24-29 OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH CUBA ON FISHERIES AND MARITIME BOUNDARIES. WHILE BOTH SIDES RESERVED ON SEVERAL POINTS, I CAN REPORT CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS WITH AGREEMENT ON A DRAFT GOVERNING CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERNATIONAL FISHERY AGREEMENT (GIFA). WE ALSO EXPECT TO REACH ACCORD ON A PROVISIONAL MARITIME BOUNDARY AGREEMENT AFTER WE HAVE WORKED OUT TECHNICAL DETAILS. THE ATMOSPHERE WAS CORDIAL, FRANK AND BUSINESS-LIKE AND THE SUBSTANCE NARROWLY-FOCUSED. WE EXPECT A SECOND ROUND OF TALKS BEFORE LONG.

6. PRESIDENT'S PAN AMERICAN DAY ADDRESS TO OAS: THE PRESIDENT HAS AGREED TO OUR RECOMMENDATION THAT HE DELIVER AN ADDRESS AT THE PAN AMERICAN UNION ON PAN AMERICAN DAY, APRIL 14. THE DEPARTMENT'S DRAFT SPEECH, DESIGNED TO SET A FRESH AND MORE OPEN TONE AND TO STRESS GLOBAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, HAS GONE TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

7. MECHANISM FOR HANDLING ISSUES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND MEXICO: WE ARE PROGRESSING TO SET IN MOTION THE AGREED HIGH-LEVEL WORKING GROUPS TO CONSIDER A BROAD AGENDA OF TOPICS OF MUTUAL CONCERN OUTLINED BY PRESIDENT CARTER IN A LETTER TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO. THE LATTER HAS PROPOSED THAT DISCUSSIONS BEGIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND NAMED THE MEXICAN AGENCIES TO BE REPRESENTED. PRESIDENT CARTER'S REPLY PROPOSED THE FIRST MEETING AT THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL IN MAY. WE WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY STATE, AS THE COORDINATING AGENCY, AND MEMBERS FROM TREASURY, COMMERCE, AGRICULTURE, JUSTICE, LABOR, NSC, STR AND OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR ENERGY.

8. IDB APPROPRIATION:

THE CONGRESS APPROPRIATED \$316 MILLION (SUPPLEMENTAL

TO AN EARLIER REGULAR APPROPRIATION OF \$270 MILLION) AS PART OF THE \$2.25 BILLION U.S .SHARE OF THE FY 1976 TO FY 1979 IDB REPLENISHMENT EXERCISE. THIS SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION WAS 69 PERCENT OF THE \$460 MILLION REQUESTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION. THESE FUNDS WERE CUT, IN PART, BE-
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CAUSE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CALCULATED THAT 40 OF THE IDB LOANS WENT TO COUNTRIES WHICH THE SUBCOMMITTEE CONSIDERED TO BE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATORS--SPECIFICALLY ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, CHILE, AND URUGUAY.

WHILE LESS THAN REQUESTED, THIS IS THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE AND ABSOLUTE AMOUNT OF FUNDS ACTUALLY APPROPRIATED BY THE CONGRESS FROM AN ADMINISTRATION REQUEST IN THE LAST THREE FISCAL YEARS. THE REGULAR FY 77 APPROPRIATION WAS 55 PERCENT (\$270) OF THE AMOUNT REQUESTED, FY 76 WAS 44 PERCENT (\$225) AND FY 75 WAS 45 PERCENT (\$225).

9. SCHOLAR-DIPLOMAT SEMINAR ON LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS:

WE HOSTED THE SECOND REGULAR SCHOLAR-DIPLOMAT SEMINAR LAST WEEK. NINETEEN SCHOLARS WORKING ON LATIN AMERICAN ISSUES PARTICIPATED. OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY WAS A TOPIC OF HIGH INTEREST AND LIVELY DISCUSSION. OUR VISITORS EXPRESSED MIXED REACTIONS AND THERE WAS NO UNANIMITY OF VIEWPOINT ON THIS ISSUE. SOME QUESTIONED THE USEFULNESS OF CUTTING OFF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AS A MEASURE FOR INDUCING IMPROVED PERFORMANCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS.
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